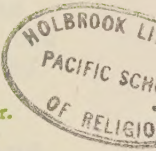


# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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NCC 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the 16th General Assembly of the National Christian Council, April 2-3, Rev. Dr. Chitose Kishi of the Evangelical Lutheran Church was elected chairman. Dr. Kishi is highly respected by all faiths as a dedicated interpreter of Christian faith. He studied at Kansei Gakuin, the U. of South Carolina and the U. of Leipzig.

Bishop Yashiro of the Anglican Episcopal Church was reelected as one of the vice-chairman and Rev. Isamu Omura, recently elected moderator of the Kyodan, was elected as the other vice-chairman. Rev. Shoji Okamura, Baptist Convention, and Rev. Raymond Hammer, Episcopal, were installed as the secretaries.

The present state of the Protestant Church in Japan according to a survey carried out by the NCC was reported at the assembly. The survey covered 78 denominations, however, it represented the actual situation as of Dec. 31, 1962 for only 34 denominations, as 32 groups had figures available only up to 1960, four groups only up to 1961, six groups only up to 1959 and two groups for 1958 and 1957 respectively.

Increases were registered in the number of churches, believers and clergy; there are now 4,998 churches, 5,969 clergy and 407,232 believers. In comparison to the 6% increase (25,775) in believers in 1961 there was about a 3% increase (12,411) in 1962. A striking development was an increase of about 5% in clergy whereas the survey of the previous year registered a decrease.

There was an increase of 2%(123) for churches, double the increase of 69 churches in 1961. Of the total of 4,998 churches,





more than 30% (1,599) are churches of the United Church of Christ. The Anglican Episcopal Church follows with 348 churches and the Spirit of Jesus Church (Iesu no Mitama) with 297. Only 14 of the 78 denominations have more than 100 churches, about one third of the denominations have fewer than 10 churches.

The United Church of Christ with 2,451 clergy (1,991 men and 460 women), including 361 missionaries, makes up about 41% of the total of Protestant clergy in Japan. The Seventh Day Adventist follows with 395 and the Anglican Episcopal with 387.

The United Church of Christ with 187,817 believers makes up about 46% of the total of Protestant Believers. The Spirit of Jesus Church follows with 44,780 members and the Anglican Episcopal with 44,135. Only six denominations have more than ten thousand members, and of these six denominations the United Church of Christ registered the highest numerical increase with 2,612 followed by the Baptist Convention with 1,132, the Evangelical Lutheran with 603 and the Anglican Episcopal with 244.

#### EACC SITUATION CONFERENCE

In November 1961 it was decided by the Continuation Committee of the East Asia Christian Council to hold three situation conferences in Asia. The one planned for Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan was held March 8-14 in Amagisanso, Japan.

Christ commands His Church to move from a self-centered to a God-centered life, to life as His servant people in and for the world. The hope was expressed that whatever the Holy Spirit had said to them during these days may be heard and heeded by the Churches collectively and individually.

There are a number of places where growth is notable. The Church in Taiwan is rapidly fulfilling a plan to double its membership in ten years. There has been significant growth among the people in the mountain areas. The Church in Korea has experienced continuing expansion in rural areas; new opportunities have opened up in the chaplaincy work in the armed services and in prisons. Hong Kong reported growth in its schools and churches. In Japan, Taiwan and Korea the Churches are pioneering in new approaches to workers in industrial centers. The United Church of Christ in Japan has a significant program for development in apartment areas. However, in large measure the Churches have not been where the people are. Uprooted families and individuals often fail to find welcome in the churches. A certain evident traditionalism does not speak to the younger generation, a situation that makes even more disastrous the divisions of the Church in all our countries.

There are many national groups living outside their own homelands. There are a half million Koreans living in Japan as well as substantial communities of Chinese in Korea and Japan. Several thousands of students from other Asian countries are studying in Japan. Youth constitutes at least one half of Asian countries, and is therefore a potential for nation and Church. The lure of the cities is drawing many people from farms and small towns. In what way can the





Church meet their need for community? The role of the laity is becoming increasingly important in Churches that are still centered around a professional clergy.

To encompass the growing edges, Churches must be willing to decrease, or relinquish entirely, some of the work in which they are now engaged. There are few, if any, resources for new tasks. It is difficult for existing Churches abroad to continue to support existing work only. And then, too, "While receiving from abroad to meet growing opportunities, how can we safeguard our Churches' independence and integrity?"

Church-related schools have exerted a fine influence, but today it is the secular schools which provide the great new area for joint mission. It is a question as to how some of the existing funds may be freed to meet new opportunities. In most countries the task of education has become the task of the state, tens of thousands of students in secular schools remain untouched by the Gospel. The opportunities that are presenting themselves require new and stronger channels of cooperation on the national level. "Can the National Christian Councils be made effective agencies for this task?"

The presence of so many theological schools emphasizes church divisions. "Can we not, together with our friends abroad, take the initiative in concentrating support in a few good seminaries?"

Certain projects were suggested as worthy of consideration:

1. Christian Literature. Testimonies to the power of God should be available in many languages. Information on Christian work should be shared in several countries. In view of the common languages used throughout this region, there should be a coordinated literature program and a plan for the training of writers.

2. Leadership training. "Could we establish together in this region a roving seminar to train our pastors and lay people?" The Churches must give greater support to centers of research into the cultures of the countries.

3. Mass Communications. Radio, television and films have revolutionized contemporary life. Churches must learn to utilize these new media more effectively.

4. Student Work. New opportunities in work with students must be approached through joint planning. This is true also of industrial evangelism.

5. New doors have been opened for Evangelism. "We believe God is leading us to make changes in policies which will allow more effective response to these new opportunities." The group urged all Churches to examine their total task in the light of all available resources, including those from abroad. Also, the role of the missionaries in today's church was considered.

It is noted that as soon as possible, the EACC should call a consultation on the problems and procedures concerning the selection, training, support and pastoral care of all missionaries in the Asian Churches, from East and West.





A survey in each country was suggested of all Christian service institutions in order to help the Churches here and abroad to determine priorities of assistance. How specific institutions can help the entire Church would be of great help. Two examples given were the Tsurukawa Rural Seminary of the United Church of Christ in Japan and the Tao Feng Shan Study Center in Hong Kong. Each Church should study its own institutions with a view to finding out where duplications are in existence and also how some of these could of greater service to the entire Church. An example here is the Japan Institute of Christian Education of Rikkyo University which has offered to send teams anywhere to hold workshops on human relations.

Other suggestion was to hold ecumenical conferences in lands that know little about the ecumenical movement.

It was recognized that everything that was said at this meeting speaks to the dividedness of the Churches, to which there is no easy or immediate solution. Participation in world confessional organizations makes the problem more acute. Churches were exhorted to support with prayer and participation the study conferences being planned by the World Council of Churches and the EACC to consider the implications of world confessionalism. Fellowship, patient listening to one another and joint action will draw us closer to Christ in whom is our common mission.

#### BAPTIST NEW LIFE MOVEMENT

The Tokyo campaigns of the Japan Baptist Convention, called the Japan Baptist New Life Movement, continued for five straight evenings beginning on March 30 and ended April 3. Immediately after completing their evangelistic gatherings in Tokyo the crusade team began their campaign in Sapporo (Hokkaido). The crusade team included about 600 Baptist ministers, laymen and musicians - many from Texas.

About 6,000 attended the first night meeting in Tokyo with 83 signing decision cards.

It is estimated that about 150 large and small meetings will be held throughout Japan until May 5 when the crusade is scheduled to end.

#### MARRIAGE & CHRISTIAN HOME SEMINAR

Another of the summer seminars on Marriage and the Christian Home will be held in July. Sakae Tsuboi, famous woman novelist in Japan, has been asked to speak. She uses the family as a basis for some of her novels, and has also written about her own family. She writes the scripts for a morning television program televised by NHK daily from 8:15 to 8:30, The Wind Blows Tomorrow. It is a sensitive interpretation of the modern family and how the individuals in that family meet their problems. Under the sponsorship of the Family Life Movement of the National Christian Council, simultaneous sessions will be held in Tokyo and Osaka.

#### RELIGIOUS BODIES URGED TO UNITE WITH GENSUIKYO

A statement issued by the Japan Religious Peace Council, a

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council representing Buddhist and Christian organizations working for world peace, urged its members to join forces with the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo).

In connection with the 9th Anti-nuclear World Rally to be held Aug. 5, by Gensuikyo the council said that it will sponsor, with the All-Japan Council of Atomic Bomb Victims, a 45-kilometer peace march from Nagasaki to Hiroshima, cities which experienced atomic bombing.

#### ICU RESEARCH SECTION TO PUBLISH SERIES ON TREND OF ECONOMIC THEORY

The Economic Research Section of the Social Science Division of International Christian University under the direction of Professor Masao Hisatake, is publishing a seven volume series entitled, "Recent Trend of Economic Theory". The first volume, Survey I: Equilibrium Theory and Its Development was published just this week; the others are to follow at approximately one month intervals. The first three volumes consist of articles selected and translated by the committee. The last four will be original works, each dealing with a special area of study. The publisher is Toyo Keizai Shimpo Sha.

#### ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF WORKING WOMEN

Mrs. Hanako Watanabe addressed a group of women on the role and contribution of working women today at the Asia Center, Tokyo, April 12, 1963. She is in the Labor Department, is an expert on labor and has studied in England and Italy. She is also on the board of the YWCA, under whose sponsorship the seminar was held. She reported that there are more than 18 million women workers in Japan, of whom 65% are unmarried, 21% are married, and the remainder have lost their husbands or are separated.

She gave as some of the problems - the Japan seniority system which pays higher wages to older people (which leads employers to change frequently, taking on younger people); a shortage of nurses; the need for education to make young women realize that they are part of the great working force of Japan; the difficulty of widows with children to secure jobs; the need for more day nurseries to care for children of rural parents, as both parents must work in the fields; labor problems and preventing employers from exploiting women workers. Quoting the Philadelphia Declaration, she said, "Labor is not a commodity." The worker is an individual human being and should be treated as such. She told the group that Christians are not numerous as workers in Japan and sometimes they are hesitant about taking a stand. It has been true, however, that when one does take a firm action for the right, she finds followers who are willing to give support in the spirit of righteousness.

